



epiqresults

Remote real-time brings speed and efficiency to the complexity of transcript production — all courts, all documents, all the time

Transcription is an essential component of any litigation. As the only official record of a hearing, the importance of having a timely, accurate and easily manageable transcript is often overlooked. Transcription delays can be costly to the court, client and to legal representatives.

Why use remote real-time transcription?

The traditional method of receiving transcript is a same day, next day or delayed service where the transcript is finished and sent out after the fact. Advances in technology have enabled a more streamlined service called remote real-time where you receive an immediate copy of the transcript on your computer or other electronic device as the words are spoken. This greatly reduces delays during the proceeding and allows counsel to respond more accurately and efficiently to new evidence or submissions in the case. It can also benefit solicitors, clients and the Judge.

There is increasing pressure to adopt measures that increase efficiency in court proceedings. S56A of the Civil Procedure Act requires that practitioners act in a way that can resolve disputes in line with the overriding purpose being the Just, Quick and Cheap resolution of the real issues in dispute. Remote real-time enables this by reducing delays by up to 25%, enabling better collaboration and ensuring immediate access to the transcript at all relevant moments during the hearing.

How does it work?

Real-time court reporting involves the attendance of on-site stenographers who are writing in a language called stenograph at a speed of up to 280 words per minute at 98% accuracy.

The Epiq real-time service provides users with a live, verbatim record of legal proceedings as they happen. Text is sent direct to laptops or iPads in the hearing room or at remote locations so that users can annotate transcripts according to issues specific to their matter. Users are also able to create customised search and annotation reports across multiple hearing days, allowing all results to be consolidated into one document.

Where is it used?

Real-time court reporting services are used in Australia's most high profile court cases, Royal Commissions and Special Commissions of Inquiry. Epiq real-time services are available as a desktop or web-enabled version for access on laptops or iPads in the hearing room or remotely. It has increasingly

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been used for smaller cases because of the cost and efficiency benefits. Full training, technical support and equipment are provided throughout the lifecycle of a case.

Who can it benefit?

Everyone involved in the case can benefit from real-time.

- The Judge is able to concentrate on submissions and witnesses without needing to write extensive notes
- Counsel can quickly and accurately respond to inconsistencies and easily mark up the transcript during the proceeding which can save much needed time for more important preparations after each day of hearing
- Solicitors can interact with counsel and their teams, allowing better collaboration with multiple team members. Annotations can be shared and research immediately done to provide strategic support to Counsel
- Clients are able to remotely view the proceeding and engage with their legal representatives without needing to attend court

What can real-time do for me?

For complex proceedings involving multiple parties or large amounts of evidence, real-time is of particular benefit, especially where information needs to be shared with team members in multiple locations.

Keeping a strategic focus

Perhaps most importantly, real-time reporting enables the Judge and parties to focus on more substantive issues rather than concentrating on every word being said. Testimony is immediately available as a streaming transcript that can be used during proceedings throughout the day. Parties can annotate the transcript during evidence and have immediate access outside the hearing room on laptops or remote devices during breaks.

Keeping appropriate parties informed

It's easy to share testimony with key members of the team regardless of their location. The text can

be displayed on computers or other devices and broadcast securely via the internet to remote locations. This enables law firms to engage clients without burdening them with the time or cost of having them present.

Setting the stage for more focused evidence

As one court reporter noted, "When you tell a witness that you will be able to INSTANTLY see the written record of what he/she says and then scroll back through it, analyse it and compare it in real-time, it has a huge impact." The witness has less opportunity to hedge, reflect or rethink what they say.

Accessing key testimony more quickly

Real-time software includes easy-to-use query and reporting tools for fast access to strategic information. Parties can easily mark the transcript during testimony and, with a single keystroke, generate a report of every place marked, including 10 or 15 lines of testimony around each annotation. This can then be emailed to a paralegal or the war room, providing important feedback or research during the case.

Catching and clarifying mistakes as they occur

Questioning and objecting barristers can immediately review past testimony to make objections and clarifications. For example, for an objection to the form, the questioning barrister can immediately look at the question, verbatim, and cure the objection by reforming the question or determine if they want to stand by it. The objector can also use the real-time transcript to assess the actual question before deciding if they really want to object.

Providing an immediate rough draft

A rough draft of the transcript is available immediately. This can be invaluable to the legal team as it prepares for subsequent proceedings.

What does it cost?

Please see the pricing schedule for full details. If you would like to arrange a demonstration or if you are interested in our other services, please contact Epiq at:

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